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REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending in the present application. In the Office Action mailed April 4, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-6, 23-25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Manz (USP 3,544,759) taken with the SCR Manual excerpt. The Examiner next rejected claims 2 and 7-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Manz.

Claims 1, 3-6, and 23-25 were rejected as being unpatentable over the combination of Manz and the SCR Manual excerpt. Applicant, however, has amended claim 1 to further define the claimed invention. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to further define that the output mode selector is configured to enable a user to identify one of a number of welding processes for which the power source is capable of providing power. Further, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the selector circuit electronically energizes an output terminal based on a user input to the output mode selector such that power delivered to the terminal is matched to the welding process identified by the user via the output mode selector. As set forth below, Applicant believes that the above amendments patentably distinct the claimed invention from that taught and/or suggested by Manz and/or the SCR Manual excerpt.

That is, Manz teaches an electric arc working apparatus "having a power supply connected in circuit relation with the electrode and workpiece for controlling the delivery of power to the arc under one or more welding conditions." Abstract. In this regard, Manz discloses a power supply capable of providing power to two independent output terminals for supplying power to two independent wire feeders, as shown in the Figure. Specifically, Manz teaches a system whereby "power is supplied to welding system A through power supply output 24 upon energizing relay 2 from the operators switch control by placing it in the A position." Col. 2, Ins. 52-54. As such, "the energization of relay 2 closes normally open contact 4 completing a circuit from conductor 30, sliding brush 22, secondary winding S, conductor 31 and power supply output 24." Col. 2, Ins. 54-57. Additionally, Manz teaches that "power is supplied to welding system B through power supply output 44 upon energizing relay 6 from the operators switch control by placing it in the B position." Col. 2, Ins. 68-70. In this regard, "the energization of relay 6 closes normally open contact 8 completing a circuit from conductor 40, sliding brush 12, secondary winding S, conductor 42 and power supply output 44." Col. 2, Ins. 70-73. As further taught by Manz and illustrated in the Figure, the operators switch control may be selectively positioned at either "A", "B", or "A+B" to effectively control which power supply outputs, if not both, will be energized for the subsequent delivery of power to one or more independent welding systems.

In contrast, claim 1 calls for a welding power source having an output mode selector that enables the user to identify one of a number of welding processes to which the power source is capable of providing power. This is significantly different from that disclosed by Manz. That is,

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Manz teaches a system whereby user may energize one or two outputs, both of which are connected to a common transformer, such that power is supplied to one or more welding systems. However, the switch control does not enable a user to select between different types of welding processes. That is, if a user of the Manz system places the operators switch to position "A", then the power supply output 24 will be energized to provide power to a welding system connected to that power supply output independent of the type of welding process that is to be carried out by the welding system connected to that power supply output. In other words, user selection via the operators switch control allows a user to select which outputs shall be energized and the transformer delivers power to that power supply output in accordance with the construction of the transformer assembly, i.e. the position of the brushes 12 and 22. See col. 2, lns. 25-45. The invention called for in claim 1, however, includes an output mode selector that enables a user to identify a particular welding process rather than an output connected to a given welding system. It also includes a selector circuit that is configured to electronically energize an output terminal such that the power delivered to the terminal is matched to the welding process identified by the user via the output mode selector. As such, the welding power source provides an output power consistent with the desired operational mode identified by a user using the output mode selector. For example, if the output mode selector is constructed to allow the user to select a constant voltage (CV) and a constant current (CC) mode of operation, then the selector circuit will electronically energize the terminal such that power delivered to the terminal is consistent with the CC or CV mode of operation identified by the user. Manz, nor the additional art of record, makes no such teaching. As such, Applicant believes that claim 1 is patentably distinct from that taught and/or suggested by the art of record.

Similarly, in light of the amendments to claims 18 and 23, it is believed that the subject matter called for therein is patentably distinct from that taught and/or suggested by the art of record. Specifically, claim 18 has been amended to clarify that the user input received identifies either a CC or a CV mode of operation for the welder and that from the identified mode of operation a specific output terminal is selectively biased. Claim 23 has, likewise, been amended to clarify that the first set of the electronic components is activated to provide power for a first type of welding process and the second set of electronic components is activated to provide power for a second type of welding process dissimilar from the first type of welding process. As set forth above in the remarks with respect to claim 1, the art of record neither teaches nor suggests user selection between the CC or CV mode of operation or selectively energizing electronic components to energy respective output terminals for different types of welding processes to which a welder power source may be configured to power. As such, Applicant respectfully believes that claims 18 and 23, as well as those claims depending therefrom, are also in condition for allowance.

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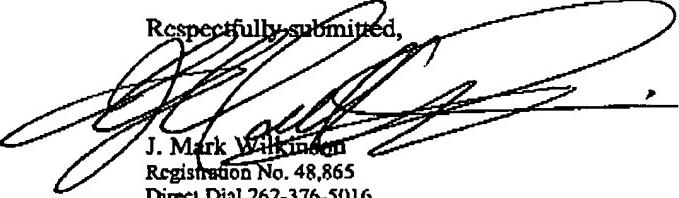
The Examiner also rejected claim 8 as being unpatentable over Manz, the SCR Manual excerpt, and further in view of Yasuhara et al. Specifically, the Examiner asserted that the electronic components associated with the characteristic coils of the prior art and the transformer of the Yasuhara et al. system are patentable equivalents to the inductive, filter circuit, and electronic switch elements called for in claim 8. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

As is well-known, a filter is designed to pass signal with a specific frequency range and reject or attenuate signals whose frequency spectrum is outside this passband. The reference discloses a constant current characteristic coil (13) and a constant voltage characteristic coil (14). The reference further discloses an iron core (7) wound by a pair of coils (3, 4). One skilled in the art would readily recognize that these electronic components do not constitute a "filter circuit", as claimed. That is, the coils of the reference do not pass signal within a specific frequency range and reject or attenuate signals whose frequency spectrum is outside that passband. As such, notwithstanding the teachings of Manz and the SCR Manual, the combination of references fails to teach or suggest every element called for in claims 8-17.

Therefore, in light of at least the foregoing, Applicant respectfully believes that the present application is in condition for allowance. As a result, Applicant respectfully requests timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-25.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's consideration of these Amendments and Remarks and cordially invites the Examiner to call the undersigned, should the Examiner consider any matters unresolved.

Respectfully submitted,



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